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TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER STEVEN
STEVENSON

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of Commander Steven Stevenson's 21 year of service with the Civil Engineer Corps of the United States Navy. I also wish to congratulate Commander Stevenson on his upcoming retirement.

Commander Stevenson was raised in Western Colorado and graduated from Olathe High School in 1981.

Beginning in his youth, Commander Stevenson chose to put family and country before self, attending the Naval Academy at Annapolis. Upon his graduation in 1985, Commander Stevenson was assigned to Amphibious Construction Battalion One, where he served with distinction as Assistant Bravo Company Commander and Assistant Operations Officer.

From 1987 to 1990, Stevenson served as the commander of the Construction Battalion Unit 418 and was selected for the highly competitive US Navy Ocean Facilities Program. Stevenson, displaying his characteristic level of determination and intellect, succeeded in earning a Masters of Science in Ocean Engineering.

When the Navy needed a capable leader to establish a new Construction Battalion Unit during the 1990's, it turned to Commander Stevenson. And when the Navy needed a well educated officer to bring the Seabees into the information age, once again it turned to Commander Stevenson, who went on to modernize everything from Seabee equipment to training.

Commander Stevenson's scholarly and engineering excellence is only exceeded by his devotion to his country. Stevenson represents the very definition of the famous Seabee valor having earned two Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, a Navy Achievement Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation over the course of his career.

Commander Stevenson's life of service exemplifies the Seabee motto "Constrimus, Batuimus"—"We build, We Fight". He spent his career building a better and safer future for our country, all the time ready to put his life on the line for that brighter tomorrow and the ideals he has held dear.

And so today I would like to both congratulate Commander Stevenson on his retirement, and personally thank him for his 21 years of devoted service to his country.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF DR. CARL
EDWARD HYMAN

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Dr. Carl Edward Hyman.

Born on June 29, 1924 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Dr. Hyman passed away on December 31, 2005 and I would like to recognize his life and achievements.

After graduating from Merrill High School in Pine Bluff, Dr. Hyman then attended Frisk University and Meharry Medical College in Tennessee. He then became a resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Hubbard Hospital in Nashville and completed post graduate studies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1959, Dr. Hyman was appointed Chief Resident of Provident Hospital in Chicago.

For almost half a century, Dr. Hyman was in a private Obstetrician/Gynecology practice in Pine Bluff, where he became the first residency trained African-American specialist in the State of Arkansas. Over the course of his lifetime, Dr. Hyman earned a reputation as a generous and selfless community leader in Jefferson County. Among numerous accomplishments, he was a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the first African-American to serve on the Pine Bluff Civil Service Commission, a lifetime member of NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and a member of the Trustee Ministry at Kings Highway Missionary Baptist Church. Perhaps most notably, Dr. Hyman was appointed by Governor Bill Clinton to become the first African-American appointee to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, a board which he served for 28 years.

Dr. Hyman led an exemplary life both professionally and in unwavering service to his community and his state. While Dr. Hyman may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on forever in the lives he touched. My deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Dr. Edith Hyman; his son, Dr. Carl Alta Hyman; and his extended family of brothers, sisters, nephews and grandchildren.

PATIENTS BEFORE PROFITS ACT
OF 2006

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation—the Patients Before Profits Act of 2006—that will right some of the many wrongs in the budget reconciliation bill passed by Congress last week and signed by the President today. This legislation, which is also being introduced today in the Senate by Senator CLINTON, will realign our priorities to protect the healthcare coverage of working families rather than the profiteering of HMOs and private insurance companies.

The Patients Before Profits Act eliminates Government overpayments to Medicare HMOs through removal of a "slush fund" provision and ensuring these HMOs are only paid what is appropriate for the consumers they serve. This bill would then use these savings to restore protections against excessive out-of-pocket costs for necessary medical visits, prescription drugs, and emergency room care. It will also restore the benefit protections that provide medically necessary treatments under Medicaid and ensure families have adequate benefit coverage, not bare-bone packages.

The Patients Before Profits Act is needed because of the recently passed so-called Deficit Reduction Act, which the Republicans designed and the President is signing into law today. In the dark of the night, the Republicans removed provisions that transferred \$32 billion in taxpayer overpayments to Medicare HMOs and insurance plans.

The Senate bill had cut \$36 billion in overpayments to the HMOs in Medicare. That included \$26 billion in savings by more accurately calculating their payments. But the negotiators rewrote the provision to save just \$4 billion, providing a \$22 billion windfall to the HMOs. The Senate bill also eliminated a \$10 billion slush fund designed to entice HMOs to participate in the prescription drug program. The Republican conferees dropped this provision, providing another \$10 billion gift to the HMOs for a total of \$32 billion.

This bill takes back the money given to Republican-favored companies and restores to our most vulnerable citizens the needed healthcare that was cut. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, of the \$28 billion in savings from Medicaid over 10 years, about 75 percent of that amount is due to provisions that reduce the number of people who can afford to participate. It will increase the number of uninsured and under-insured by raising the copayments that people will have to pay to see their doctors, increasing premiums, cutting medically necessary treatments, and tightening access to long-term care.

By 2015, 4.5 million children will be affected by higher cost-sharing charges for healthcare services such as doctor visits. A total of 13 million people will face higher charges to access their healthcare services. Twenty million people will face higher charges to obtain needed prescription drugs. One-third of those individuals affected by the drug cost-sharing (6.6 million) will be children and half (10 million) will have incomes below the Federal poverty level (monthly incomes of less than \$1,380 for a family of three). All this because of a Republican unwillingness to take back overpayments to HMOs.

Congressional Budget Office analysis also concludes that the Republican legislation assumes that the number of uninsured will increase. Twenty percent of the savings from new premium charges under this law will derive from families who are no longer able to maintain their Medicaid coverage due to increased costs. Sixty percent of those who will lose coverage due to new premium charges will be children. Again, all of this because of a Republican unwillingness to take back overpayments to HMOs.

The Patients Before Profits Act of 2006 is a good start to right some of the wrongs that the Republican-led Congress and the President have inflicted on working families, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women, and children. I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LAWRENCE

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. David Lawrence of